

ARTICLE 9. HIGHWAY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

R17-3-901. Signing for Colleges and Universities

A. Definitions.

"Community College" means a two-year college as described in A.R.S. § 15-1401.

"Department" means the Arizona Department of Transportation.

"Major metro area" means an urban area with a population of at least 50,000.

"Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)" means a national standard for the design and application of traffic control devices published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and used as the standard for traffic control devices for use upon the streets and highways of the state of Arizona as required by A.R.S. § 28-641.

"Municipality" means an incorporated city or town.

"Nonconforming sign" means an erected sign that does not comply with this Section or A.R.S. § 28-642(D) due to changes in the statutes, rules, or changed conditions. Examples of changed conditions include the reconstruction of a highway, or physical deterioration of a sign.

"Regionally accredited college or university" means a college or university accredited by a regional institutional accrediting association recognized by the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education.

"Rural area" means all areas other than a major metro area, or an urban area.

"Signing" means standard highway supplemental guide signs as specified in the MUTCD.

"Trailblazing sign" means a sign installed by a local governmental agency, off the state highway, to guide traffic to a college or university.

"Trip" means a one-way commute to or from a college or university, calculated by the Department based on the number of students or dorm beds, using the following equivalents:

One student = 1 1/2 trips

One dorm bed = three trips.

"State University" means a university established and maintained by the Arizona Board of Regents under A.R.S. § 15-1601.

"Urban area" means a municipality having a population of at least 15,000 but less than 50,000.

- B. Application for signing. A college or university that qualifies under A.R.S. § 28-642(D) may request signing by submitting a letter on its letterhead to the Department's State Traffic Engineer. The letter shall contain the following information:

1. Name of college or university;
2. Complete street address;
3. Names of agencies granting accreditation;
4. Number of students;
5. Number of dormitory beds, if applicable; and
6. Signature of an individual authorized to sign for the college or university.

- C. Requirements. To be considered for signing, a college or university that qualifies under A.R.S. § 28-642(D) shall satisfy the following:

1. Is on a road that intersects a state highway. If a college or university is on a road that does not intersect a state highway, it still may qualify if:
 - a. The governing political subdivision submits to the Department, within 30 days from the Department's receipt of the request for signing, written confirmation stating that the governing political subdivision will install and maintain trailblazing signs; and,
 - b. The governing political subdivision installs trailblazing signs before the Department places signing on the state highway.
2. Meets all the requirements under subsection (C)(2)(a), (C)(2)(b), or (C)(2)(c).
 - a. If in a major metro area:
 - i. Generates at least 4000 trips per weekday.
 - ii. Is three miles or less from a state highway, except the distance may be increased 1/4 mile for each 10 percent increase in the required number of trips per weekday to a maximum of five miles.
 - b. If in an urban area:
 - i. Generates at least 2000 trips per weekday.

- ii. Is four miles or less from a state highway, except the distance may be increased 1/4 mile for each 10 percent increase in the required number of trips per weekday to a maximum of five miles.
 - c. If in a rural area:
 - i. Generates at least 1000 trips per weekday.
 - ii. Is five miles or less from the state highway, except the distance may be increased 1/4 mile for each 10 percent increase in the required number of trips per weekday to a maximum of 15 miles.
- D. Exceptions to standards. The Department may place supplemental guide signs on state highways to direct traffic to colleges and universities. The Department shall determine whether to place supplemental guide signs for a college or university based on the specific criteria and the guidelines in the MUTCD.
- E. Nonconforming signs. The Department may remove a nonconforming sign if:
 - 1. Other signs have greater priority under the criteria in the MUTCD,
 - 2. Physical spacing of signs is limited for an upcoming interchange or intersection, or
 - 3. A greater number of trips are generated by the subject of other guide signs.
- F. Only the initial, main campus of a qualifying college or university may qualify for signing, unless otherwise permitted by statute.